

Application no. 10/611,769

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A textured composite material having a surface area and comprising a fibrous outer layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises a fabric, wherein the surface area comprises depressed areas and elevated areas, wherein the fibers of the fibrous outer layer in the depressed areas are anchored in the adhesive layer and wherein the fibers on the outer surface of the fibrous outer layer in the elevated areas are substantially unbonded to the adhesive layer.
2. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the combined density of the fibrous outer layer and the adhesive layer in the depressed areas is at least about 0.7 g/cm^3 .
3. (original) The textured composite of claim 2, wherein the density is at least 1.0 g/cm^3 .
4. (original) The textured composite of claim 2, wherein the density is about 1.3 g/cm^3 or less.
5. (original) The textured composite of claim 4, wherein the density is about 1.3 g/cm^3 .
6. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the depressed areas the fibers of the fibrous outer layer are substantially embedded in the adhesive layer.
7. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the depressed areas all the fibers of the fibrous outer layer are embedded in the adhesive layer.
8. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the depressed areas the adhesive layer penetrates through to the top of the fibrous layer.
9. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the depressed areas the fibers on the top surface of the fibrous outer layer are unbonded to the adhesive layer.

Application no. 10/611,769

10. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the elevated areas the fibers positioned on the bottom surface of the fibrous outer layer are bonded to the adhesive layer.

11. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the elevated areas the fibers positioned on the bottom surface of the fibrous outer layer are unbonded to the adhesive layer.

12. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the density of the fibrous outer layer is in the range of about 0.1 g/cm^3 to about 0.6 g/cm^3 .

13. (original) The textured composite of claim 12, wherein the density is about 0.2 g/cm^3 .

14. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the density of the peak regions of the elevated areas is substantially the same as the density of the fibrous outer layer.

15. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein a ratio of the elevation of the elevated area, D , to the thickness of fibrous layer, T_f , in elevated area is about 2.8 or less.

16. (original) The textured composite of claim 15, wherein said ratio is about 2.2 or less.

17. (original) The textured composite of claim 16, wherein said ratio is about 2.2 to about 1.1.

18. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the elevation of the elevated area, D , is greater than the thickness of fibrous layer, T_f , in elevated area.

19. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the composite has a reverse side opposite the fibrous outer layer and the reverse side has an undulating profile.

20. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the surface area further comprises transition areas disposed between the depressed areas and the elevated areas.

Application no. 10/611,769

21. (original) The textured composite of claim 20, wherein the density of the fibrous outer layer and the adhesive layer in the transition areas is less than 0.7 g/cm^3 and greater than about 0.2 g/cm^3 .
22. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer has a different color than the adhesive layer, such that the surface area of the composite comprises multiple colors.
23. (withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the textured composite material further comprises a backing layer.
24. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 23, wherein the backing layer is a felt with a basis weight in the range of about 4 to about 30 oz/yd^2 and needle punched with a density of about 300 to about 1000 penetrations per inch.
25. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 24, wherein the backing layer is needle punched from the bottom.
26. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 25, wherein a thermoplastic binder layer is attached to the backing layer.
27. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 24, wherein the backing layer comprises about 60% to about 90% polyester and about 10% to about 40% polyolefin.
28. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 27, wherein the polyester comprises fibers having about 5 to about 25 denier per filament and the polyolefin comprises fibers having about 1 to about 3 denier per filament.
29. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 28, wherein the polyester fibers have a length of about 1.5 inches to about 6 inches and the polyolefin fibers have a length of about 0.5 inch to about 2 inches.

Application no. 10/611,769

30. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 23, wherein the backing layer and the adhesive layer are pre-integrated.
31. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 30, wherein the backing layer and the adhesive layer are laminated by needling.
32. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 31, wherein the materials of the backing and adhesive layers are substantially evenly blended and wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 20% to about 60% of the total weight of the combined weights of said two layers.
33. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 32, wherein the backing layer comprises adhesive fibers.
34. (withdrawn) The texture composite of claim 33, wherein the backing layer comprises about 40% to about 80% polyester and about 20% to about 60% polyolefin.
35. (withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 23, wherein the surface area further comprises exposed areas of backing layer material each exposed area being peripherally surrounded by a depressed area.
36. (withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 35, wherein the fibers of the fibrous outer layer have a color scheme and the backing layer has a color such that the exposed areas of backing layer material in combination with the color scheme of the fibrous outer layer impart to the textured composite material a pre-selected color-coordinated appearance.
37. (withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 23, wherein the backing layer has a plurality of strata and each stratum being of a different color, and wherein the color of preselected stratum is exposed on the surface area of the composite.
38. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the textured composite material

Application no. 10/611,769

further comprises a liquid impermeable layer.

39. (currently amended) The textured composite of claim 38, wherein the liquid impermeable ~~[[permeable]]~~ layer is permeable to gas.

40. (currently amended) The textured composite of claim 38, wherein the liquid impermeable ~~[[permeable]]~~ layer is impermeable to gas.

41. (original) The texture composite of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is liquid permeable.

42. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises at least one non-woven layer.

43. (original) The textured composite of claim 42, wherein the non-woven layer is stitch-bonded.

44. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises at least one woven layer.

45. (original) The textured composite of claim 44, wherein a surface of the woven layer adjacent to the adhesive layer is raised.

46. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises at least one knit layer.

47. (original) The textured composite of claim 46, wherein a surface of the knit layer adjacent to the adhesive layer is raised.

48. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises at least one lace layer.

Application no. 10/611,769

49. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises an open layer and a closed layer.
50. (original) The textured composite of claim 49, wherein the open layer is a lace layer.
51. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the depressed areas are interconnected to form a first pattern on the surface area.
52. (original) The textured composite of claim 51, wherein the first pattern comprises a plurality of parallel lines.
53. (original) The textured composite of claim 51, wherein the first pattern comprises a plurality of wavy lines.
54. (original) The textured composite of claim 52, wherein the first pattern comprises two intersecting groups of parallel lines.
55. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the depressed areas comprise a second pattern of spaced apart depressed areas.
56. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein a plurality of central portions of the depressed areas are removed from the composite.
57. (original) The textured composite of claim 56, wherein substantially all of the central portions are removed from the composite.
58. (original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises a spunlaced nonwoven fabric.
59. (original) The textured composite of claim 58, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric has a basis weight in the range of about 1 to about 5 oz/yd².

Application no. 10/611,769

60. (original) The textured composite of claim 58, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric comprises fibers shorter than about 2 inches.

61. (original) The textured composite of claim 58, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric is a layered woodpulp/staple composite.

62. (currently amended) A textured composite material having a surface area and comprising a fibrous outer layer and an adhesive layer, wherein [[the fibers in the fibrous outer layer is positioned substantially parallel to the adhesive layer prior to an application of an embossing tool to the layers to form]] the surface area comprises an embossed, contoured surface with depressed areas and elevated areas on the surface area, wherein in the depressed areas the fibers of the fibrous outer layer are anchored in the adhesive layer, and within the elevated areas the fibers of the fibrous outer layer form loops upstanding from the adhesive layer.

63. (withdrawn) A method of forming a textured composite comprising the steps of

- (i) providing a fibrous outer layer having plurality of fibers and an adhesive layer;
- (ii) aligning the fibers in a direction substantially parallel to the adhesive layer;
- (iii) embossing said layers to form depressed areas and elevated areas on a surface area of the composite until the fibers are anchored to the adhesive layer in the depressed areas.

64. (withdrawn) The method of claim 63, wherein the step of embossing further includes the step of (iv) embedding the fibers in the adhesive layer in the depressed areas.

65. (withdrawn) The method of claim 63, wherein the step of embossing further includes the step of (v) pushing the adhesive to the top of the fibrous layer in the depressed areas.

66. (withdrawn) The method of claim 63 further includes the step of (vi) providing a backing layer at least before the embossing step (iii).

67. (withdrawn) The method of claim 66, wherein the step of (vi) providing a backing layer

Application no. 10/611,769

further includes the step of (vi) providing a backing layer having multiple colored strata.